

In re application of: Kenneth Walker, Jr. et al
Application No.: 10/713,446 Examiner: Eric V Woods
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Commissioner for Patents
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REPLY BRIEF

This Reply Brief is provided in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed July 18, 2007. The supplemental comments below are submitted to reply to certain grounds of rejection set forth by the Examiner in the Examiner's Answer.

1) Reply to Examiner's Grounds of Rejection of Claims 1 and 11

On pages 3-7 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner analyzed the Roses, Noda, and Haeberli references and applied their teachings to independent method claim 1. On page 8 of the Answer, the Examiner applied the same reasoning to similar independent claim 11. The comments below are directed specifically to claim 1, but should be considered as applying similarly to claim 11.

Applicant's respectfully submit that, in analyzing the cited references, the Examiner parsed and analyzed claim 1 as a collection of individual elements, such as an image container, a base image, and a cropping indicator. The mere existence of the components, however, is not the subject matter of claim 1. What the Examiner has established is the fact that image containers, base images, and

cropping indicators, as individual elements, were known in the prior art. What the Examiner has not established, and what the references do not teach or suggest, is any teaching or appreciation in the prior art that these elements could advantageously be adapted according to the claimed method to achieve the beneficial result of providing a user with a direct visual indication of the portion of a base image that is currently the image content of a selected image container.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for facilitating user customization of the image content of an image container that already has image content that is at least a portion of a base image. In response to a user request to perform custom cropping for a selected image container having image content, the user is presented with a display of the associated base image and a cropping indicator positioned to indicate to the user the portion of the base image that is the current content of the image container. The user can, therefore, immediately apprehend the position and size of current image container content relative to the entire base image.

Noda and Haeberli disclose base images and disclose cropping indicators positioned in a default location on the base image, but none of the references teach responding to a user request to perform custom cropping of an image container by displaying the associated base image and displaying a cropping indicator positioned over the base image in a location that indicates to the user the portion of the base image that is the current content of the image container, as discussed in the last full paragraph on page 4 of the Appeal Brief.

2) Reply to Examiner's Grounds of Rejection of Claims 21 and 26

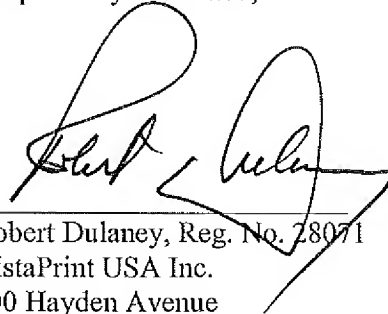
Claims 21 and 26 are dependent claims that add the element that "wherein the base image associated with the selected image container was not associated with the selected image container by the user." In the first full paragraph on page 11 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner states that the Noda reference "teaches that the user can open a template and that the system can automatically insert an image that is scanned into the first field in the template". As support for this

position, the Examiner cites Noda [0051]-[0057]. Applicants do not find support for the Examiner's position in the cited paragraphs and believe that it is clear from Noda [0058]-[0061] that all images are placed in image containers under user control, not automatically.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth in the Appeal Brief filed March 13, 2007 and in light of the comments above replying to the Examiner's Answer, Applicant respectfully submits that each claim is patentable and reversal of all rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Dulaney', is written over a horizontal line.

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